

STATINTL

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Dodd's Ties to Klein Still Are Puzzle

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And Jack Anderson

Of the many lobbyists we have known in Washington, Maj. Gen. Julius Klein of the Illinois National Guard, retired, is one of the most unique. His uniqueness lies in the fact that he has such close relations with Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), the West Germans, and did have them for a time with other Senators.

His relations with the Germans can be explained by the fact that they were anxious to live down their anti-Jewish stigma of the war, and Klein was a Jew who appeared to have powerful friends in powerful places.

But Klein's relations with Tom Dodd, a prosecutor, a former U.S. attorney, a keen investigator, supposedly a rooter-out of evil, the mainspring of the Internal Security Committee, are hard indeed to understand.

Dodd was not a champion of the Jewish minority, in fact he once incurred Jewish resentment by inserting the spurious Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion in the Congressional Record on the strange excuse that he was exposing anti-Semitism.

Nevertheless, Dodd enjoyed an intimate relationship with Klein. Meanwhile, many other Senators had got wise to him, and frowned on his activities. So did the members of his own profession.

For instance, Klein is one of the few members of the Public Relations Society of America who have been officially censured. On Sept. 23, 1963, Ward B. Stevenson, then president of the Society, sent out a notice "to all members" stating that "in accordance with the by-laws, I have been instructed by the board of directors of the Public Relations Society of America, Inc., to give you notice of a resolution of censure adopted by the board at its meeting on Sept. 20, 1963.

"The resolution, which was adopted by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the entire board of directors, follows:

"Resolved, that Julius Klein, a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Inc., be and he hereby is censured for his violation of paragraphs 1 and 13 of the Society's Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Public Relations."

This occurred just six months before Sen. Dodd went to Germany on behalf of Klein.

Alien Property Lobbyist

The Jewish War Veterans' national executive committee on April 30, 1966, officially went on record as refusing Klein its support.

The mimeographed summary of the JWV meeting states "Item 7—Gen. Julius Klein Ruled Off Agenda by Chairman. Klein sought the floor

on a plea of personal privilege to attempt to get resolution of support in the Dodd case. He was ruled off the agenda and denied the right of support."

This came after officers of the Jewish War Veterans many times made it clear through letters to editors and public statements that they strongly disapproved Klein's use of his position as past national commander to bolster his public relations business.

As early as 1956, ten years ago, before Tom Dodd was elected to the Senate, this column began calling attention to the powerful lobby for the return of war-seized Nazi property. Klein became identified with this lobby in 1957, despite the fact that the great majority of American Jews and Jewish War Veterans were opposed to returning this property which, under the peace treaty, was to pay the claims of Americans against Germany.

This column publicized in about 600 newspapers the fact that Herman Abs, formerly managing director of Hitler's Deutsche Bank, was the 1957-58 spearhead of this lobby. Immediately after publication, Gen. Klein wrote indignant letters to the 600 newspapers denying that Abs had any Nazi connections, and vigorously championing the return of former Nazi property.

Klein failed to report that Dr. Abs participated in wrest-

ling property away from the Jews under Hitler.

\$40,000 Fee

Klein at that time was getting \$40,000 for his alien property public relations, though he did not at first register with the Justice Department as a foreign agent.

In fact, he did not register until after publicity had been given to his activities, and after the Justice Department notified him that he must register.

Klein, however, did a good job for his clients. Dr. Abs had come to the United States in 1950, but beat a hasty retreat after Sen. Guy Gillette of Iowa exposed his pro-Nazi past. When he came again in 1957, however, he was smart enough to hire the former commander of the Jewish War Veterans as his public relations agent. This time Abs remained in the United States.

And after many years of propagandizing, the German property, chiefly the I. G. Farben subsidiary, General Aniline and Film, was finally sold—with about \$100 million going back to Europe.

Gen. Klein was partly responsible.

During all this period, Klein's operations were well publicized by this column and other news media. What he did was no secret to the supposedly discerning Senator from Connecticut, a former prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials.

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